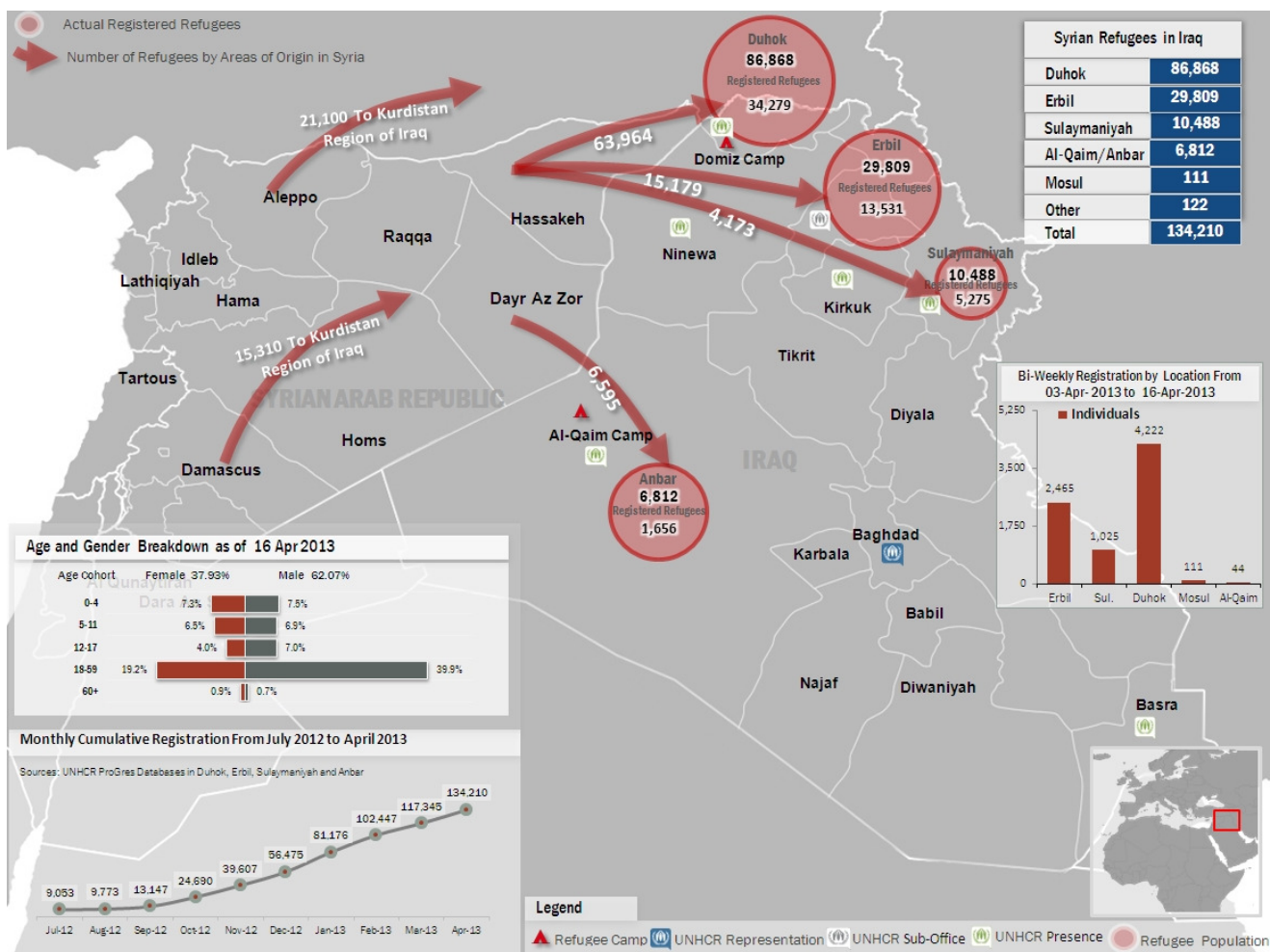


Syria Situation

Bi-Weekly update No. 40

3 – 16 April 2013



To date the following donors have contributed to the Regional Response Plan Jan-June 2013:



<http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/>

iraqpi@unhcr.org

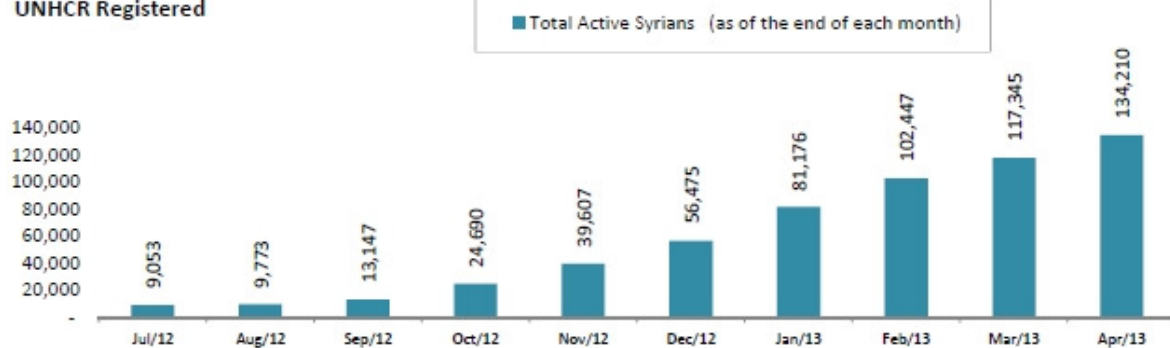
MOMD | DDM | DGC | Local Authorities

Agencies: UNHCR | UNICEF | WFP | WHO | IOM

NGOs: IRW | Qandil | ISHO | IRC | HARIKAR | CDO | RIRP | ACTED | Save the CHILDREN | NRC | Muslim Aid | IKL | CDO |

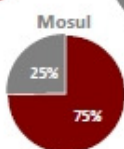
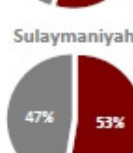
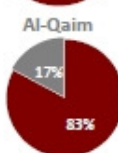
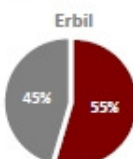
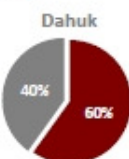
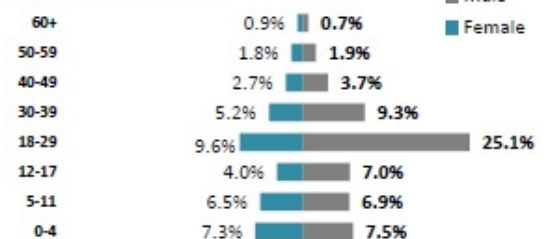
CAPNI | Rabin | Asayeesh | MSF | Oxfam | Afkar | Caritas | UPP |

UNHCR Registered



Demographic profile based on 134,210 proGres registered persons

Demographic Breakdown



Localisation of the Registration



Governorate Persons House holds % Total

Dahuk*	86,868	34,279	64.7%
Erbil	29,809	13,531	22.2%
Sulaymaniah	10,488	5,275	7.8%
Anbar	6,812	1,656	5.1%
Mosul	111	32	0.1%
Other	122	64	0.1%
Total Iraq	134,210	54,837	100.0%

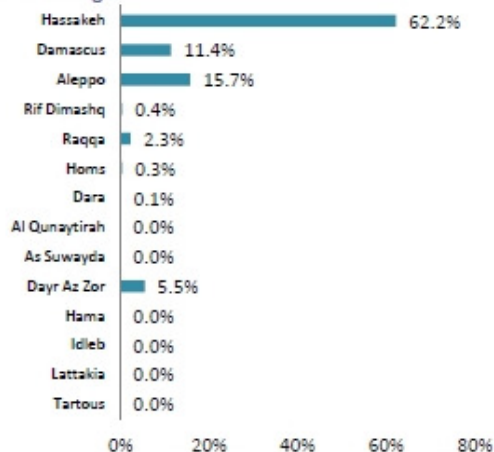
* Includes Syrians registered in Domiz Camp

Camps Persons House holds

Domiz**	78,172	29,873
Al-Qaim Camp1	1,692	380
Al-Qaim Camp2	2,201	478

** Note that this figure reflects the number of refugees registered in Domiz Camp. However, a substantial number of refugees relocated out of the camp. The camp population is estimated to be 35,000.

Place of origin



1. Syrian response in Iraq: highlights

- A total of **134,210 Syrian refugees** are now registered in Iraq; **125,597** are in the Kurdistan Region (KRG).
- The number of Syrian refugees is rising again with an average of 550 new arrivals on daily basis.
- **UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a joint visit to the border** point where refugees are registered by the KR authorities. The visit aimed at enhancing the humanitarian response through joint efforts.
- In Erbil, the KRG authorities and UNHCR embarked on **preparation works in the new camp Dara Shakran** on 21 April. The new camp will accommodate up to 12,000 refugees.
- As of 1 April, KRG suspended issuing/renewing residency permits for Syrian refugees in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah (permits are still being issued in Domiz camp).
- Al Qa'im border remains closed with some exceptions for females and minors less than 15 years old as apart of the family reunification.
- There have now been **over 4,000 voluntary returns to Syria** from the Al Qa'im border point.

2. Sector updates

2.1 Reception, Registration and Protection

Al Qa'im

In Al Qa'im, Anbar governorate, the Syrian refugee population is 6,812 with 1,692 in Camp 1 and 2,201 in Camp 2 leaving 2,919 outside the camps. Interviews among arrivals indicate that the reasons for flight are general insecurity and reported abuses coupled with the deteriorating living conditions, the loss of livelihood opportunities and the absence of almost all basic services.

The border at Al Qa'im remains closed. Syrians in need of medical attention are admitted for day-care provided at the health unit established at the border. However, since 28 March, 2013 the border was closed completely by the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) for Syrian family reunification, with exception of females and minors under 15 years old. Males over 15 years old can no longer cross the border into Iraq, as reported to UNHCR.

The number of return cases was 876, bringing the total number of returnees to 4,162. Reasons for return continue to be lack of freedom of movement and livelihood opportunities and reportedly improved conditions in Al Bukamal. UNHCR continues to counsel those expressing interest in returning but is not facilitating repatriation given the lack of conditions conducive to a stable return. Counselling is conducted to ensure the process is voluntary and the applicants are fully informed of the non re-admission policy into Iraqi territory. However, UNHCR Team received an official letter from ISF in respect to the organization of the refugee return to Syria to be maximum (50) persons per day.

UNHCR/IRC interventions led to the successful release of one refugee, who was accused of violating a government order. The IRC lawyer based in Al Qa'im represented the individual in court.

UNHCR was notified of the resumption of granting Iraqi nationality to Syrians who are eligible as per the set criteria, which involves a new procedure and an additional certificate from the Iraqi citizenship department for Syrians of Iraqi mothers. Temporary sponsorship that is usually granted for several days continues to be suspended.

Kurdistan Region

Syrian refugee families and singles continue to approach the UNHCR office in Duhok (including Domiz Camp), Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. During the reporting period, UNHCR recorded 7,712 new arrivals which comprises of 1,245 families (6,167 individuals) and 1,545 singles.

- Erbil: 431 families (1,764 individuals) and 701 singles
- Sulaymaniyah: 170 families (812 individuals) and 213 singles
- Duhok: 644 families (3,591 individuals) and 631 singles

Reports are indicating that access to the KR border has been restricted from the Syrian side since 1st of April. Despite this, Syrians continue to flee and cross into the KR in search of safety, protection and better economic opportunities. The majority of new arrivals continue to be from Hassake followed by Aleppo and Damascus provinces. The recent escalation of attacks on Kurdish neighbourhoods in Aleppo has caused displacement of tens of thousands of Kurds from Aleppo towards Afrin and Kobani towns. Some of these displaced families are seeking asylum in in KR.

According to newcomers hundreds of Syrians are awaiting on the Syrian side of the border hoping to cross into the KR. Some of those Syrians who have returned spontaneously to Syria are apparently not allowed to cross back into the KR. Insecurity, shortage of electricity, food, lack of employment and basic services in the north remain among the main factors triggering Syrians to flee their homelands.



Extremely vulnerable Syrian refugees receive on-going assistance in the camp by the DMC, UNHCR and partners. Food and core relief items are being provided, and for the most vulnerable tents are being distributed and erected.

On 14 April, a meeting was held with Domiz community leaders to discuss the need to improve sectorial committees' coordination as well as the plan for reinforcing the community leadership in a transparent manner. It was agreed that a seven-person committee will be elected to oversee and coordinate the activities of the various sectorial groups.

In collaboration with the Department of Labor and Social Affairs in Duhok and with partner IRC, UNFPA is conducting GBV training for 25 stakeholder participants from Domiz camp. The training manual has been developed by UNFPA and was adopted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs.

Urban Refugees

As of 1 April, the KRG suspended issuing and renewing the residency permits for all Syrian new arrivals in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah, including for those refugees who were on the list waiting for an appointment to receive the permits. This decision has serious repercussions for refugees - without the permits they face difficulties finding jobs and accessing public services such as health and education. In addition, without the residency cards their freedom of movement is restricted.

The living conditions of the majority of the Syrian urban refugees remain poor. Yet the majority of the refugees live in roofless/precarious houses and the core relief items and food assistance provided through the solidarity program is not enough to cover for their daily basic needs, including rental fee, food and transportation fees to go to school, clinics. The majority of the urban refugees are being assisted and supported with core relief items and food by their local neighbours in the communities. The phase 3 of the urban strategy addressing the needs of the most in needed should start in May.

2.2 Security

Al Qa'im

The overall security context in Al Qa'im, located in Iraq's Anbar Governorate remains tense. Spill over of hostilities from the Syrian side, though isolated, has occurred in addition to the present civil unrest. Recently, ISF takes security measures to deal with any possible attack by insurgents in Al Qaim. The forces have been distributed in patrols to react in case of any violations.

Domiz

The authorities have been putting in place some procedures to regulate/manage the security related situation in the camp, such as developing access procedures (badges, car passes, etc.). The overall security situation in the camp remains calm.

2.3 Assistance Update

Shelter / infrastructure

Al Qa'im

In Al Obaidi, the third camp in Al Qa'im, the potable water network has been completed and was connected to the main source, while non-potable water (washing water) is still not connected with the main source; UNICEF is obtaining approval from the local district council and UNHCR will support getting the approval within the next reporting period. Works are still on-going to complete electricity installation and external lighting. Four power transformers have been installed during the reporting period by the local government. According to UNHCR request, IRW removed the collapsed tents and stored them in the RUBHALL as a contribution from their side.

Domiz

Despite the decrease of new arrivals, the **camp remains critically congested**. In some cases **15 or more refugees have to share one tent**. In addition, refugees continue to spontaneously erect tents in non-demarcated camp areas, which is informally expanding the camp boundary.

One of the refugee families living in communal latrine in Domiz camp/UNHCR



Addressing shelter needs of families is the major challenge. As an extreme example of conditions that refugees find themselves in, there are several families currently living in communal latrine in Phase 1 (*photo on the left*). UNHCR field/CS are looking for options to relocate the families as neither DMC nor sector leaders are no longer able to find host families for refugees.

Keeping necessary space for social activities, child play grounds or any other community development activities will be difficult if at all possible as accommodation for the families is the main priority.

UNHCR staff has had to put additional responsibility on sector leaders and community volunteers to appropriately combine families

obliged to share accommodation. Under such circumstances, issues of maintaining respect for family life and privacy would not be considered. Some families do not have any basic facilities and receive water only once a week. If and when the family finds an option inside the camp, the place is immediately occupied by another family. Finally, all the irregular areas as well as tents pitched inside phases create WASH and health concerns.

Transit 7: The part of Transit 7 that is not occupied with irregular tents will be finalized by 5 May. By 18 April, Qandil will have finalized the installation of 214 sanitation units, all 89 septic tanks are completed and covering slabs have been installed (*the photo on the right*). Two hundred tents for the first group have been delivered to Transit 7 and demarcation for preparation of tent installation has started. DMC is expected to mobilize the selected families for relocation on Sunday-Monday.

One of the challenges that UNHCR and Qandil are dealing with and which may partially affect the relocation is related to water tanks for sanitation units. It has been agreed earlier with DMC that water tanks will be provided by DMC. However, water tanks for sanitation units have



not yet been delivered by DMC. UNHCR is following up with DMC on this matter.

Reception Centre/Accommodation for New Arrivals: DMC informed UNHCR that four staff were hired for the work in the Reception Centre. The process of placing the families into the Reception Centre and the internal administration of the Reception Centre remains pending with the DMC. UNHCR has shared with DMC a preliminary draft of operating procedures for the Reception Centre. Connection to electricity and delivery of water tanks are pending with DMC.

UNHCR through Qandil conducted the following activities in the Reception Centre:

- Construction of communal kitchen is expected to be finalized by Sunday, 21 April
- Office container has been delivered and installed
- Frame for shading the waiting area has been installed. Roof is expected to be finalized by 21 April
- Stands for installing communal water points have been completed
- Provision of tarpaulin for the floor of the Reception Centre tents. Floors will be covered by 21 April

Land Allocation for New Camps in the KR

In Erbil the Governor of Erbil and UNHCR have jointly started the works in the new camp 'Dara Shakran' on 21 April after a meeting between the Erbil authorities, UNHCR, other UN sister agencies and NGOs. Roles and responsibilities have been assigned for the new camp set up and operations, including land allocation, health, WASH, food, infrastructure, education, etc.

In Sulaymaniyah, negotiations are still on-going between local authorities and the local community.

Water and Sanitation

Al Qa'im

Supplements of water continue in Camp 1 and Camp 2 from the water compact unit. UNICEF and partners completed the bill of quantities for the required maintenance of the main water stations, which is pending approval. Some refugees complained of high turbidity of the water; the UNHCR team spoke with UNICEF facilitators who confirmed that the turbidity levels are within the standard limits. While in Camp 3, the potable water network has been completed and was connected to the main source, while non-potable water (washing water) is still not connected with the main source. UNICEF is working to obtain approval from the District local council. UNHCR Team will try to support in getting the approval within the next reporting period.

Domiz

WASH WG structure was further improved by establishing technical groups on Water Supply, Sanitation/Waster Water and Solid Waste Management and Hygiene Promotion/WASH kits. The objective of creating technical groups was to improve long term and short term responses to the identified challenges in the WASH sector, which represents one of the most serious issues overall in the camp; WASH is linked to the issue of space in the camp and prevention of health problems. Technical groups will develop their schedules and modalities and meetings will be held on need basis.

UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a joint WASH assessment for Domiz camp in order to ensure rapid response to the challenges the camp is currently facing concerning water distribution and sanitation.

The garbage situation in the camp remains critical. Despite an on-going service by collectors arranged by the DMC, large amounts of garbage are gathered in several areas. There is the need to sensitize the camp population on the related sanitation and health risks.

Non Food Items

Al Qa'im

UNHCR in collaboration with partner Rebuild Iraq Reconstruction Program (RIRP), distribution of NFIs took place in both camps according to the following vulnerabilities (new-born babies, cases of fire tents, tents damages due to sandstorms, families who did not received all NFIs allocated to them, new arrivals, reunification, and replacement of damaged items). A total of 762 items were distributed during the reporting period; 842 diapers for all sizes were distributed as the quantity distributed by other partners was not enough. Female sanitary napkins will be distributed after reviewing the quantity distributed by other partners. Al-

Tadamon league for Iraqi distributed 53 Wheel Chairs, provided by DRC and distributed hygiene products for disabilities among refugees. WHO in collaboration with UNHCR released 25 Wheel Chairs to refugees with disabilities after conducting a tent to tent assessment to cross check the precise needs. As a result of the assessment a real need for the toilet seats were identified, WHO focal point will coordinate with his management to send them with a couple of weeks.

Domiz

The DMC, UNHCR and other IPs continue to distribute NFIs to new arrivals in the camp.

Syrian refugees receive core relief items in Domiz camp/UNHCR



Food

Al Qa'im

The UNHCR cash food assistance for the period 17 March through 17 April was distributed to 4,444 refugees with a total of USD 66,660. 4,369 WFP Food parcels were distributed for April 2013 and is on-going. The distribution of biscuits continues on daily base.

Domiz

The fourth WFP Food Voucher Distribution started on 7 April and 7,246 vouchers amounting to USD 1,088,193 were distributed by 16 April and reached 35,103 beneficiaries. The April target figure is 40,000 persons.

Health

Al Qa'im

The lack of medicines, especially for chronic diseases remains of critical concern. Vaccination against Typhoid through outreach teams is ongoing as well as daily vaccinations for new arrivals. BCG vaccination is still pending. There is no dentist in either camp and UNHCR is encouraging the partner IRW to speed up the hiring process as there is a real need for dentists in the camps. Also, there are no gynaecologists available for most of the time and UNHCR reiterated the importance of taking action. Furthermore, more efforts are required to limit the lice outbreak.

Sand storms are commencing and it is expected that more respiratory infections will be reported.

The number of medicated patients in Camp1 clinic is 795; the main problems that they approach the clinic for are gynaecological related issues, respiratory diseases, diarrhoea, fever, and tonsillitis. The number of referred medical cases in the Camp1 clinic is 87 cases; most of them are suffering of dermatological diseases, ophthalmological diseases, and dental issues. The number of medicated patients in the clinic of Camp 2 is 1,328 patients; the main problems for which they approach the clinic are upper respiratory tract infections, acute diarrhoea, and other consultations. The number of referred medical cases in Camp 2 is 134 and are mostly related to antenatal and dental care.

Domiz

The clinic at Domiz camp continues to provide reproductive health (RH) services to women and girls. The number of daily beneficiaries has increased from 25 to 35. The majority are seeking antenatal care and family planning services. There is an increase in the number of watery diarrhoea cases. On average, there are nine cases per week for children under five years.

UNFPA forecasted the RH kit needs for 2013 based on ongoing discussions with the DoH in Duhok; however, these requirements may be augmented with the Government's plan to open more camps in the KR.

WHO is conducting an assessment on the burden that non-camp Syrian refugees is placing on the health system in the host communities in Dohuk. This will enable the humanitarian community to strengthen the health system in the host communities. WHO procured medicine including antibiotics, drugs for chronic diseases and life-saving illnesses to be supplied for both camp and non-camp refugees. WHO trained a group of 10 laboratory technicians from Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil in the isolation of cholera from stools. Such trainings will continue until summer sets in with the purpose of ensuring effective preparation for potential cholera/watery diarrhoea during the summer months.

The Ministry of Health in Iraq and KRG- in collaboration with WHO, organized a training workshop for mental health and psychosocial support in emergency settings from 8-11 April 2013 in Duhok. The objective of the training is to enable the healthcare providers to effectively identify (diagnose) and manage (in PHC settings or through referrals) individuals with psychiatric and psychological problems at the primary healthcare level.

MFS and UNICEF are supporting the DoH Dohuk for a mass immunization campaign to vaccinate the refugees in Domiz camp with measles and meningitis vaccines; the campaign started on 7 April for one week. Three vaccination sites have been established by DoH Dohuk in the camp, in each site two fixed teams (total six teams) of nine health staff are working on registration and vaccination. The target for the campaign is around 30,000 refugees, from 6 months to 15 years for measles and 2 to 30 years for meningitis.

The DoH is conducting a fumigation campaign in Domiz camp.

Education

Al Qa'im

Schools in both camps are operating with an average of 50 per cent of the registered children. This is occurring as a result of refugee returns to Syria as well as lice outbreak, parents prevent their children from attending school to avoid the lice spread to their children. Another reason for the increased number of absence is the Iraqi curricula and the education system is different from that of Syria.

The registration of the intermediate school is complete and classes began with the number of students registered in schools in camp 1 is 32 girls and 30 boys while in camp 2 school there are 58 boys and 57 girls.

Domiz

The third school in the camp, established by UNHCR, will have its opening ceremony on 21 April. The school is expected to enrol 1,200 children in two shifts. A total of 742 children have been registered, of which 450 have already undergone the placement interviews conducted by the DoE. The placement interviews are aimed at determining the education levels of the children vis-à-vis the Iraqi education system. Twenty five teachers are required to cover the two shifts. The DoE identified 15 teachers from the database of qualified refugees provided by UNHCR and the recruitment will continue until all 25 required spots are filled. Community mobilization for the enrolment of children to the new school has been going on in collaboration with Harikar and sector leaders. The necessary scholastic materials, provided by UNICEF will be distributed on the first day of school, 21 April 2013.

A two-day training was conducted for administrative and managerial staff of both primary schools in Domiz camps by Duhok DoE. The training mainly focused on child friendly school management. Eight school staff (2 female) participated in the training. Another training was conducted by Harikar for the education committee in Domiz camp.

Tree planting campaign: Children in Qamishlo school are participating in a tree planting activity organized by the school management, DMC and Department of Agriculture. One hundred trees were planted and each tree has a team of children who will be responsible for taking care of it.

Livelihood

Domiz Camp Internal Transport System: Domiz camp is almost like a small town with over 35,000 persons. Movement of people, items, relocations, delivery of items to small shops run by refugees, delivery of assistance – all requires transportation. *Tuk-Tuks* are one of the main sources of movement and carrying items in the camp. There are 45 tuk-tuk drivers operating in the camp. Six of them are those supported by IOM under the UNHCR funded livelihood project. The rest were procured by the refugees themselves. The cost of one tuk-tuk varies between USD 1,300 to 2,000. Tuk-tuks operate as per a set price list. It should be noted, however, that a drawback of this system with taxis that are able to enter the camp may affect opportunities for refugees to have a regular source of income.

3. Coordination

Al Qa'im

The protection working group could not hold the meeting during this reporting period because of the absence of the Save the Children members who were in Erbil to participate in Training. The meeting will be held next reporting period.

Kurdistan Region

On 4 April, UNHCR Erbil organized a Protection Workshop for local media. The guest of honour, the Minister of Youth and Culture of the KRG expressed his support to UNHCR in liaising with the local journalists in order to increase the awareness of the agency's mandate and projects in the KR *(the photo on the right)*.

On 5 April, the UNHCR Representative accompanied by the UNICEF Representative jointly visited for the first time the border/crossing point areas in the KR in order to assess the arrival procedures for the Syrian new arrivals.

The Minister of Youth and Culture of Kurdistan greets journalists at UNHCR media event



From 15 to 17 April, a UNHCR Regional Public Information mission visited Domiz camp and the Syrian urban refugees in Erbil. The mission produced some video/photo material in order to increase the visibility of the Syrian refugees in the KR as a fundraising tool.



On 10 and 11 April, a US donor delegation visited Domiz camp in Dohuk and the UNHCR PARC offices in Erbil. The delegation, led by the PRM based in Baghdad, also visited some urban Syrian refugees living in Daratoo sub-district in Erbil *(the photo on the left)*.

4. Acronyms and abbreviations

DDM	Department of Displacement and Migration
DMC	Development and Modification Centre
DoH	Department of Health
DoE	Department of Education
HOFO	Head of Field Office
HOSO	Head of Sub Office
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IPs	Implementing Partners
KR	Kurdistan Region of Iraq
MOMD	Ministry of Migration and Displacement
PARC	Protection Assistance Reintegration Centre
PHC	Primary Health Centre